



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

Brater Press Release

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Brater Fights for Childcare Subsidies

(LANSING)—State Senator Liz Brater presented an amendment yesterday in an attempt to reinstate \$5 million for child care that the Senate Republicans cut from the Department of Human Services (DHS) budget. The amendment was defeated 18-20. All no-votes were from Republican legislators.

In her testimony to the Senate, Brater said, “The Work First program requires parents to work to receive assistance. Parents can’t work if they can’t afford child care. It is essential that we make sure parents can find safe, affordable childcare while they are at work.”

Following the attempted amendment, a vote was taken on the entire DHS budget, which passed 24-14. Sen. Brater voted against the final version of the bill.

“Most parents leaving welfare work for very low wages. I have a constituent who had to choose between paying for childcare and paying the rent. She had to choose childcare, so her family became homeless. We should be investing in quality childcare for our most precious resource, our children.”

In addition to cuts in childcare subsidies, the DHS budget that the Republicans shepherded through includes cuts to both juvenile justice facilities and travel funding for child protective services workers.

“The cuts present in the DHS budget are just one more example the Republican attack on our most vulnerable citizens. They are balancing the state budget on the backs our children and the working poor.”

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State Senator Brater represents Senate District 18 which includes the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Chelsea, the Villages of Barton Hills and Dexter, and the following townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.